



Speech by

Hon. Rachel Nolan

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

Hansard Wednesday, 2 September 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Port of Brisbane, Trade Figures

Hon. RG NOLAN (Ipswich—ALP) (Minister for Transport) (9.55 am): I am pleased to report that the Port of Brisbane's diverse trade portfolio has led to its 16th consecutive year of continuous growth in total trade. Total trade reached 31.9 million tonnes, up 1.7 million tonnes or 5.6 per cent from last year. During 2008-09 the Port of Brisbane's total exports reached 15½ million tonnes, up 17½ per cent on last year's results, due to increases in cereals, coal, iron and steel. Drought-breaking rain has helped agricultural commodities recover at a time when containerised trade has declined due to a fall in household spending. Cereals, including sorghum and wheat, achieved a substantial increase of 273 per cent to 1.9 million tonnes while favourable growing conditions also produced good harvests of export chickpeas and cottonseed, up 50.5 per cent and 124.4 per cent respectively. Export coal reached its highest ever annual volume of 6.3 million tonnes, up 15 per cent, and iron and steel exports were up 24.1 per cent to 536,959 tonnes. Imports of refined oil, up 11.5 per cent to 1.4 million tonnes, and gas, up 72 per cent to 175,553 tonnes, contributed to the increase in total trade.

Despite a 4.9 per cent fall in container trade to 896,199 teus, or 20-foot equivalent units, the port achieved a 10-year average growth rate of 9.9 per cent. These trade results demonstrate that the Port of Brisbane is a strong, mature, commercial organisation that no longer needs to remain in government ownership. The Port of Brisbane is well positioned to grow and expand as a private organisation. In private ownership, the port will benefit from being able to access the full financial and technical resources of the commercial sector. The future growth of the port will be good for jobs and good for the economy. The scoping study to determine how the port will be structured for sale is progressing well and is expected to be complete by the end of 2009. While the sale process progresses, the port will maintain its focus on its commitment to reducing the port's greenhouse gas emissions, improving resource efficiency and investing in vital new infrastructure for the long-term growth of the port.